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## General Education Subcommittee Minutes, November 19, 2019

Utah State University

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## GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

November 19, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Champ Hall Conference Room – OM 136

- Present:** Lee Rickords, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (Chair)  
Christopher Scheer, Caine College of the Arts  
Daniel Holland, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business  
Shelley Lindauer, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services  
Thom Fronk, College of Engineering  
Harrison Kleiner, College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Claudia Radel, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources  
Greg Podgorski, College of Science  
Matt Sanders, Connections  
Dory Rosenberg, University Libraries  
Steve Nelson, USU Eastern  
Sami Ahmed, USUSA President  
Lawrence Culver, American Institutions  
Charlie Huenemann, Humanities  
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences  
Ryan Bosworth, Social Sciences  
Robyn Peterson, Registrar's Office  
John Mortensen, Academic and Instructional Services  
Kristine Miller, University Honors Program  
Amber Summers-Graham, Secretary
- Excused:** David Brown, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive  
Mykel Beorchia, University Advising  
Robert Mueller, Statewide Campuses/Communications Intensive  
David Wall, Creative Arts

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**Call to Order** – Lee Rickords

**Approval of Minutes** – [October 15, 2019](#)

*Minutes approved as distributed.*

### **Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals**

HIST 3840 (DHA) **APPROVED** ..... Charlie Huenemann  
*Motion to approve DHA designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Shelley Lindauer. Designation approved.*

HIST 4630 (DHA) **APPROVED** ..... Charlie Huenemann  
*Motion to approve DHA designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Shelley Lindauer. Designation approved.*

PHIL 3500 (DHA) **APPROVED** ..... Charlie Huenemann  
*Motion to approve DHA designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Shelley Lindauer. Designation approved.*

BIOL 3500 (DSC) **APPROVED** ..... Ryan Dupont  
*Motion to approve DSC designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Matt Sanders. Designation approved.*

## **Business**

### **Reviewing and Approving General Education Designation Proposals**

A comment came up regarding a misalignment between the expectations of the different designation sub subcommittees and whether or not the General Education subcommittee needs to ensure that all submitted proposals are addressing all points on a designation rubric before approval can be made. Some designation subcommittees are rejecting proposals that do not address all the criteria in the proposals and others are working from the syllabus and having off-line conversations with the faculty that might not be reflected in Curriculog. So, when the Gen Ed subcommittee as a whole is reviewing the proposals before a meeting, they may not be getting all of the information that the designation subcommittees had when making their decisions. Is the General Education subcommittee trusting the designation sub subcommittees as the subject matter experts in the field to perform the evaluations which will be rubber stamped by the General Education subcommittee? Or, does the committee require the faculty member, for the sake of posterity, to make a clear argument in curriculum in the proposal so that the records clearly show why the course merits a designation.

For the sake of time, it was decided that this discussion would be tabled until the next meeting. The Committee was asked to think about this issue and then bring ideas back for discussion and a vote at the next meeting.

### **“What is an Educated Person?” Conference Update – Lee Rickords**

Lee Rickords reported that there were some very good things covered at this year’s “What is an Educated Person?” conference. Drew Koch from the Gardner Institute presented some very interesting information about the increase of retention rates when courses were redesigned every few years or so. Part of his argument was an equity argument. If a course was designed, say, in 1995 and has roughly the same content and is taught in roughly the same way now as it was in 1995, that ignores the fact that that student body has changed. The student body is much more diverse. There are many more first gen students, especially at public regionals like Utah State University. His argument was, if institutions are not constantly revising at least their pedagogical practices or things like this in their classroom, they are teaching to a generation ago and are not effectively reaching students, particularly the most at-risk students.

Another interesting topic covered was that in Dr. Koch’s research, 42.87 percent of DF/WI students in the institutions he studied were still in good standing with the University, but were

not retained. They were still passing, but because they had Ds or withdrawals, the students just did not come back. Looking at the Civitas data for Utah State University, the DF/WI students are in good standing, and while they might persist to the next semester, they are probably not being retained to the next year. So, Civitas isn't quite getting granular enough with the students in good standing to really identify students who are at risk.

### **Sustainability as part of General Education – *Ryan Dupont***

Ryan Dupont mentioned that the Academic Working Group of the Greenhouse Gas Initiative may be making a recommendation to incorporate sustainability into General Education. He wanted to let the committee know that he has the information that the committee put together in 2008 when this subject was initially broached and he can make it available to the committee when needed.

**Adjourn - 9:14 AM**